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JAN 28 2000

PRESENTATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
CLEVELAND, OHIO

January 28, 2000

To the members of the Department of Energy:

1 [The League of Women Voters of the United States holds the position that transporting  
2.... nuclear wastes increases the likelihood of accidents that could endanger public health. The  
League also recognizes that transportation is less risky than allowing these wastes to accumulate  
at an environmentally unsafe facility.]

3 [The League of Women Voters of Ohio has adopted the position that hazardous materials  
should be handled in a responsible manner, in the following order of priority:

- a. strict enforcement of container regulation;
- b. mandatory reporting to state and local authorities of spills of reportable quantities,  
including those involving intra-state carriers;
- c. strict enforcement of placarding, labeling, and documenting requirements;
- d. permits for trucking companies carrying hazardous materials with ability to suspend or  
revoke such permits;
- e. routing requirements for certain selected extremely hazardous materials, including:
  - 1) the specification and/or the disapproval of some routes for some shipments,
  - 2) requirements for an escort for some shipments, and
  - 3) prenotification for some shipments
- f. state regulated training for drivers and loaders;
- g. collection, coordination, and analysis of data.]

4 [Shipments of high level waste would most likely enter Ohio from New England and the  
Eastern States on Interstate 90 in Ashtabula County. They would cross Lake County and connect  
with Interstate 80 on the Western side of Cleveland. Ashtabula County is a rural county with  
many volunteer firefighting units.

As President of our local League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County, I was asked to  
inquire about our local preparations for accidents on Interstate 90. The Ashtabula County  
Emergency Management Agency informed me that there are eight local firefighting departments  
available who would attend any incidents along the freeway. They have been well trained in  
dealing with radioactive materials, are all well equipped with docemetric survey meters, and are  
retrained annually. The Lake County OEMA assured me that P.U.C.O. will be checking each  
truck as it enters Ohio and it will be escorted front and back by the Ohio State Patrol. Together,  
the ODH, OEPA and other concerned state agencies will see that the standards we want are met.]

2 cont. Again, [we believe that transporting the waste to a regulated facility is less risky than  
allowing it to remain in scattered unsafe storage places.]

Thank you for providing this opportunity to explain our position.

Esther Blevins, President  
League of Women Voters of Ashtabula County